orrective steps in this regard. A igital electronic exchange with 4,000 nes has been allotted for Srinagar ogether with some small exchanges or other remote par s. I will be able o write to the hon. Member in detail. think, I have written to the hon. Member in reply to one of his letters. Details have been given. If he wants urther information, I can definitely ive.

Agitation by All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Association

*222. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the agitation by the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Association against the implementation of the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee on the pay-structure for the University and College Teachers;

(b) what are the main demands of the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Association; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to resolve this controversy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The main reasons pointed out by AIFUCTO for going on strike are that dissatisfaction against the increase in the number of grades, the decision that appointment to the posts of Readers and Professors would be made only through selection, and the decision that the Central Government would bear only 80 per cent of the expenditure on revision of pay scales in the State Universities and Colleges, instead of 100 per cent as demanded by them.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam Deputy Chairman, about 2 lakh university teachers are on strike for the last 8 days and even with the experienced Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, incharge of the Human Resource Development, this problem is not being solved. The teachers' representatives were called for discussion on June 10 when the Cabinet had already approved the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee. It would have been better if they had been called for discussion earlier. The teachers have gone on strike for not exactly what the Minister had been saying but they are objecting to the multiple wage structure which the Minister has mentioned now, which would create castes and sub-castes among the teachers. Instead of the present three groups, (*Interruptions*) the Mehrotra Committee has recommended few groups. The second is linking of enhancement in salaries with the service conditions. It is quite confusing and the service conditions are alo very humiliating. One of them says that they should not steal college property. Then it is said, they should not indulge in vandalism and they should not misappropriate funds. These are all understood, these are part of service conditions and I do not know why make a mention of these things and link them with pay. Thirdly, this all-India qualifying examination would force the teachers to go from one part of the country to another. Fourthly, the probation period has been increased from one year to two years.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now put your question.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Now they are thinking of a new eva-

luation system, that is before prompting a lecturer to the senior grade, he has to be evaluated by his colleagues, principal, students and self. I do not know what sort of recommendations these are and how the Cabinet has approved them. Will the Minister assure that he will scrap these recommendation and revise them?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, I do understand that even to put a succinct question on a matter like this, is not easy, leave alone answering the question. I would, as I have been requesting, prefer to have a discussion a debate for as many hours as the Members want because it is just not possible to deal with this subject in the Question Hour. I would very much welcome and I have been asking for a full debate, but somehow it has not happened.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a Calling Attention motion on this where questions can be put in detail.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I will be happy to have a Calling Attention on this.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The Minister has to deal with the situation, he has not to deal with the questions only. Teachers are on strike, classes have been suspended.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am trying to answer the questions which the Members are trying to put.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Should we remain content with the debate or should there be a settlement of the controversy?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I want a settlement. I want the Members to know on what lines settlement has been proposed and what exactly the matter is. We will have to understand what the problem is.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As this matter is very important and as the House is quite seized of the matter, I think it would be better if we have a Calling Attention. More and more Members will be able to participate.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Let there be a general discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have a meeting of the BAC tomorrow. We can decide what we want to do. One at a time.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: madam, this subject is very important becase two lakh teachers are on strike, colleges are not functioning, the universities are not functionig. You will have the BAC meeting tomorrow and it will fix up some time next week. This will not be all right. We have to give a sense of urgency to this matter and we should discuss it immediately.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am prepared to get the debate initiated some time tomorrow evening, if we can sit extra time or day after tomorrow, I am not going to let any time lapse. Just a minute, please. The only limitation on my part is that we have the same thing coming up in the other House. That has already been slated for tomorrow in the forenoon. From afternoon onwards, I am prepared to come here.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let him answer briefly the supplementary which I have put today. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right, please listen. We will have to find out some formula for that. We cannot go on discussing like this... Please listen. As Mr. Upendra has asked the question, and he can ask two suplementaries of which he has already asked one, I will allow him to ask another. We will have either a discussion, or in whatever way we like, we will have it next time. As he is the main questioner,let him ask it and then we will decide about it. That is the way we can do it.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I have one submission. We can have a debate, there is no objection to that but you assure us that you will, before that, meet the striking teachers and try to arrive at settlement and then come to us... Just a minute...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I wodld like the members...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chatterjee, you cannot put a condition like that.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is not a condition. The question is there is no harm if we have a debate, but all the more important is that the strike has to be settled.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is true.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The universities and colleges have to be opened. Obviously, the other party, the striking teachers and their organisations are more important. We can only intervene.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We will have a debate with a view to ending the strike. Agreed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now that is agreed Mr Upendra will ask his supplementary now and then we will pass on to the next question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You meet the teachers and settle it. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, this is not the way. We are all very serious. The House is very serious about the whole issue. The Minister has agreed for a discussion on this issue and if we are all really very serious, we should agree to that..Please listen...You will get a chance to speak when the issue comes before the House. Therefore, let Mr. Upendra as his supplementary and then we go to the next question.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: You cannot deny the right of the Members to ask supplementaries (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let the Minister answer briefly the first supplementary, then I will put the second.

SHRI NARASIMHA RAO: My difficulity is, no answer can be brief without being misunderstood. I have to answer at length. It is a matter of a few hours. Have it tomorrow evening, I am prepared to make a full statement. I am proposed for that. But 'yes' or 'no' I can not answer. It is just not possible for me to answer a leading question either 'yes' or 'no'. It is just not possible. The matter is much too complicated. I would like to tell everything that there is to it. I have nothing to... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. No noise. Order please. Mr. Upendra, you put another supplementary and try to ask a question which he can answer in a brief way.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : पहली सप्लीमेंटरी का जवाब नहीं दिया तो दूसरी कैसे पूछेंगे ?

उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइए ।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : नहीं बैठेंगे ।

उपसभापति : कैसे नहीं बैठेंगे । बैठ जाओ । आपको सुनना पड़ेगा ।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam Deputy Chairman, if no answer is coming to my question, I am not a fool to put a question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 223.... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: That can't be that you cannot.... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen... (*Interruptions*)... Please sit down.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Members' right should not be curtailed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That means you do not want any discussion on his matter... (*Interruptions*). You cannot fortce a Minister to reply in a particular manner... (*Interruptions*)...Please sit down. You want to ask questions? You don't want any discussion? You put the question and it is left to the Minister to answer. All right. Mr. Reddy.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairman. I would like to know from the honourable Minister...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about my question? I cannot allow him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have not put any question, Mr. Upendra. You said you didn't want to.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Be fair... (*Interruptions*)... Why this discrimination?.. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Please, please.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is replying. Please sit down.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, I must clarify this position so that we are not really taken into side issues. The point is...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: First you create confusion and then you clarify.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Well, the confusion has been created because you wanted me to explain a whole decision, a whole committee report, in the answer of a simple question. This is not possible and, I said, if there is any question to which I can give a direct answer, I will certainly give. But I said, the subject is so complicated, I have to trace the history, and if I take the next two hours doing it, what happens to the Question Hour? This is all I was asking... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate. Mr. Reddy... (*Interruptions*)...

I will give you a chance afterwards. Please sit down.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about the answer to my question?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has answered your question.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The first supplementary which he has asked...the answer to that is, it can be best answered ddring a debate.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Then, my second supplementary. I will use my right. Since he wants a direct question which he can answer directly, I want him to answer. It seems there was an understanding that whatever additional financial commitment was there, the State Government will be compensated 100 per cent. At some stage the Government of India agreed. Will the Minister agree to this now?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is not only no understanding but there is, again, a little story that hangs by it. Madam, the position is that we have agreed to pay 80 per cent and the State Governments in a conference where the State Education Ministers were fully represented, hav agreed to find 20 per cent. I do not know where the difficulty come in. I have been in touch with all the State Governments. Most of them have told me that they are in the process of taking decisions positively. Meanwhile the strike has come. And it becomes very embar-

sing for a State Government to e a decision while the strike is This is the whole truth. If any te Government has any difficulty, will talk to them. The point is, ing accepted this the State Govments will not normally go back it. If there is difficulty, we can e up with them. But generally State Governments have agreed it. And I would like to assure House that between the State vernmen's and the Central Govment we will sort this out.

HRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR DDY: Has Andhra Pradesh gone k?

HRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: knows that Andhra Pradesh has e it.

HRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR DDY: The Andhra Pradesh Govnment has gone back (*Interruptns*).

HRI B. SATYANARAYAN DDY: Madam, I am happy that hon. Minister is ready for a dission on this subject. He has also d that he is going to reply satistorily to all the demands of the chers tomorrow when this subject nes up for discussion. At this ncture I would like to know this m the hon. Minister. About 2 h teachers are on strike. Colleges d universities have been closed. idents are suffering, and their dies have been stopped. Let the cussion take place. But meanwhile the Government sincerely consiring to assure the teachers to end strike so that the students should suffer? The teachers should ume their duties. It all depends on the action of the Government.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: intention is to get the whole use, whole Parliament join me in pealing to the teachers. That is y I am asking for a debate.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Is the Government sincere in assuring the teachers to end the strike?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have done it. In fact, I have told them before the strike, when they came to me, "Please don't go on strike." At this moment I am saying that the teachers will do well to go back to work. If there are any matters within the policy which could be sorted out, I have always been saying that they can be sorted out. Hon. Members of Parliament have been coming to me. I have been talking to them. So, there is nothing that has broken down except that because of the strike, you know, a different atmosphere has been created. It is entirely possible to reverse that atmosphere. Let us have a debate. Let us understand what the position is, what the problem is. For the State Governments, for instance, I have just clarified that there will be no difficulty, as far as I understand, in regard to their finding 20 per cent because they have agreed. So, this is the position, Madam. We will certainly go into all this.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Many State Governments have really great difficulty.

डा० (श्रीमती) नाजमा हेपतुल्ला : माननीय मंत्री जी आपने और सभी प्रदेश के मैंबर साहिबान ने अपना कंसर्न इस क्वैशचन के बारे में जाहिर किया है और यह भी आफर किया है कि डिस्कशन हो। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि अब इस पर सप्लीमेंटरी पूछने से क्या फायदा है अगर आप समय तय कर दें तो। We will be unnecessarily talking on cross purpose. The earliest possible it is done it is better. We can discuss. Let us have an open discussion, not a calling-attention because in calling-attention not many people can participate. It should be a general discussion with more Members because it is the concern of the entire nation.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I have got two aspects of a specific question: Number one, when was the strike notice given by the AIFUCTA? Since this notice has been given how many times did the teachers try to meet you and how many times were you able to meet them? If you were not able to meet them, what were the reasons for that?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Madam, I will give all the datewise details. I do not have them now. But one thing, I know, I have been ransacking my office. I have been asking my people whether there has been, of late, a request either in writing or on telephone. I have been told that the answer is in the negative. But that is not the point. The point is we have been in contact with them. We have been talking to them either through MPs or directly to them, those who came to us. There has never been a gap in communication. This I could assure the House.

श्री पशुपति नाथ सुकुल : महोदया, हालांकि डिबेट होने जा रही है इसलिए मैं सवाल नहीं पूछता उसी समय पूछूंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Since you are going to have a discussion on it, I move on to next question —Question No. 223.

Ships belonging to Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., in the custody of various Port Authorities

*223. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:†
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 27 ships belonging to Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., a large number of ships are in the custody of the Indian and international port authorities;

(b) whether the Indian Embassies and Consulates at these ports have referred this matter to the Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to recover these ships from custody of the International Port Authorities and to make payment of arrears with respect to the starving crew of these ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Out of 23 ships owned by Scindia Steam Navigation Company, 3 vessels are under arrest abroad, 2 vessels have been detained abroad due to court order or cargo claim, 3 vessels are laid up in India and remaining 15 vessels (2 abroad and 13 in India) are unable to move for want of funds.

(b) and (c) Indian Embassies/Consulates have referred to Government the problem regarding the cargo on the vessels as well as the crew on the ships arrested abroad.

(d) Government has authorised Indian Embassies through Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India to release sufficient funds for meeting basic necessities of the crew as well as their repatriation to India. Certain funds have also been released through Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India for release of some of the arrested vessels.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I would like to know for how long these ships have been detained in various ports and whether the Government has looked into the main reasons for the malaise afflicting the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy.